

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement sheet of drawings replaces the original sheet for Fig. 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Solely in order to expedite prosecution, claims 1 and 9 have been amended to incorporate the features recited in claim 2. Claim 22 has been amended to further clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. A replacement sheet for Figure 1 is hereby submitted herewith for the Examiner's approval.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-38 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0142846 (*Paulsen*). The Examiner's rejection is fully traversed below.

Claim 1, among other things, recites: *selecting a game from a plurality of available games by comparing the preferences of a player to game characteristics of a plurality of available games.*

In the Office Action, the Examiner has asserted that *Paulsen* discloses network server controller being programmed to select a game from a plurality of available games based upon said first player preferences (Office Action, page 6, citing paragraphs 16-18 of *Paulsen*). To support this assertion, the Examiner has relied on paragraphs 16-18 of *Paulsen* which are reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

[0016] In particular embodiments, the external device may be selected from the group consisting of a gaming machine, a home computer, a casino kiosk, a personal digital assistant, a phone, and a video display where the video display may be located in a hotel room or a restaurant. The communication interface may be designed or configured to allow communication with an external device connected to a local area network, a wide area network or the Internet. Further, one of the software applications may be designed or configured to generate a game presentation simulation using the preference account information and to display the game presentation simulation to the external device.

[0017] In other embodiments, the preference account information may comprises one or more of a) loyalty point account information where the loyalty point account information may include at least one or more records of an amount of loyalty points rewarded during a particular event, b) loyalty point account settings where the loyalty point account settings may be selected from the group consisting of a name, an address, contact information, tax information and preferred rewards, c) promotional opportunities such as one or more particular events that allow a player participating in the one or more events to earn extra loyalty points, d) preferred games where the preferred games may be selected from the group consisting of video slots games, video poker games, video blackjack games, video pachinko games, video card games, video keno games and video games of chance, e) preferred game features such as game versions, game color schemes, game graphical features, a game presentation speed, game pay-out tables and game audio features, f) preferred gaming machine settings, g) preferred bonus games and h) preferred progressive games.

[0018] Another aspect of the present invention provides a method of customizing a game play on a gaming machine according to one or more player preferences. The method may be generally characterized as including: 1) selecting a preference account, 2) receiving preference account information, 3) reconfiguring the gaming machine using the preference account information; and 4) executing a game play on the reconfigured gaming machine where the preference account information comprises one or more of loyalty point account information, loyalty point account settings, promotional opportunities, preferred games, preferred game features for the preferred games, preferred gaming machine settings, preferred bonus games and preferred progressive games. [*Paulsen*, paragraphs 16-18]

Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, it is respectfully submitted that the recited section of *Paulsen* does not teach the claimed feature of: selecting a game from a plurality of available games by comparing the preferences of a player to game characteristics of a plurality of available games. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection is improper for additional reasons. In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 3, 14, 28 and 35 based on paragraph 124 of *Paulsen*. However, it is respectfully submitted that there is no such paragraph in *Paulsen*. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection is improper for this additional reason and should be withdrawn.

As another example, claim 5 recites: selecting an available game by comparing a game previously played by a first player to a plurality of available games (Office Action, page 6, citing paragraph 11 of *Paulsen*).

It is noted that *Paulsen* states:

[0011] One aspect of the present inventions provides a gaming machine. The gaming machine may be generally characterized as including: 1) a master gaming controller that is designed or configured to control one or more games played on the gaming machine and to request preference account information from a remote server and 2) a memory that is designed or configured to store gaming software that allows the master gaming controller to request one or more different portions of the preference account information from the remote server where the preference account information comprises one or more of a) loyalty point account information, b) loyalty point account settings, c) promotional opportunities, d) preferred games, e) preferred game features for the preferred games, f) preferred gaming machine settings, g) preferred bonus games and h) preferred progressive games. A first portion of the preference account information and a second portion of the preference account information may be requested from a preference account on the remote server where the first portion and the second portion are different.
[*Paulsen*, paragraphs 11]

However, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, it is respectfully submitted that the recited section of *Paulsen* does not teach this claimed feature. Therefore, it is respectfully that the Examiner's rejection is improper for yet an additional reason and should be withdrawn.

Applicant hereby petitions for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 500388 (Order No. IGT1P205). Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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